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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

THE RECALL.

In connection with the recall movement aimed at the Mayor and two of the Commissioners the assertion has been made that it is an evident abuse of the principle, and that persistence in that sort of thing will eventually lead to the repeal of the recall-law. There is no fear of that. The people will correct the abuse without repealing the law. An effectual method of correction has been suggested before by The Telegram. If there is a genuine demand for the recall of an official it should never be necessary to solicit signatures to a petition in order to give legal expression to that demand. Let the fact be generally published that such petitions are available and then let the public do the rest of its own free will and accord. When a recall election follows under such conditions it will be justified. —The Telegram.

That suggestion is worthy of careful consideration. If an officer has violated his oath of office and betrayed the trust imposed upon him, it should not be necessary for any citizen to close up his place of business and go out soliciting signatures, using all sorts of arguments to suit his fancy. The demand for a recall should be so pressing and the cause for such action so universally known that voters and taxpayers would voluntarily go to some certain place and attach their signatures without solicitation.

Until some such action is taken the recall law is a most dangerous weapon in the hands of the selfish or revengeful individual and its use by such a class of individuals will soon put the law into such disrepute as will cause its destruction.

In Columbia County the present proposed recall of the County Court and District Attorney is the result of pure, unadulterated selfishness of the most advanced type. If people were required to go to the Court House or some particular place in each precinct to sign the petitions there would be no recall. But when some individuals take the petitions around from house to house in their quest for signatures, putting up all sorts of excuses, many people sign them just to get rid of the peddlers and without any investigation of the real facts in the matter. Under such circumstances the recall law is being basely abused by selfish interests and there can hardly be a question but that sufficient signatures will be obtained.

SOME MERIT.

An opportunity presents itself now for some of the would-be law makers to earn a few dollars between this date and the election this fall. Night schools are in order for the study of the 29 measures to be voted on at the election. Every voter in Oregon is required to study these measures before balloting on them. To properly study them and ascertain just how to vote will require much time and labor. If schools are not started for the study of the measures it would be an excellent idea for the people of each community to organize classes or clubs and get together once or twice a week and discuss them. Such an organization has been effected at Warren and the voters of that community are holding meetings for this purpose already. Every school house in the state should be the meeting place of citizens for the study of the proposed laws. Some such scheme is necessary as a means of securing an intelligent vote. That is if there is any merit at all in any of the measures, which is very doubtful. As a matter of fact there are some of the proposed measures so vicious and dangerous that it would seem to be the better part of good judgment to close up the book sent out by the Secretary of State with a firm resolve to place an X in front of every No on the ballot. This would at least be the safer plan, although there may be some measures of merit, but none of any such importance that could not be properly handled by an intelligent legislature.

But the Initiative law has proven useful in the particular at least and that is as a means of requiring the people to do some studying. It will provide a means for many hours of study by the voters. It encourages industry and discourages idleness. There is some merit in the law after all.

A great many state legislatures have given consideration to bills taxing bachelors and many convincing arguments have been presented why men who escape matrimony should pay a penalty, but why not tag them

as a more painless and effective method of extermination? If the bachelors were tagged the widows could easily find them and Cupid would do the rest. The bachelor is naturally timid, but under the encouraging influences of a merry widow he can easily be led to the altar, for there is no more helpless craft afloat than a lovesick swain who has passed the age of discretion, and the little imp that plays ping pong with human hearts has no more capable ally than a woman who loves at second sight, for experience makes Cupid subtle and bold.

The women have tag days to promote most every other public enterprise, and why not a tag day for bachelors? We have in Oregon approximately fifty thousand bachelors and an equal number of widows. Why not get them together and solve two vexatious problems with one marriage license?

Two bright young college men are sent out by the Public Utilities Commission to fix the values of the Oregon-California Power Company plants in this state.

This is to determine the actual value of the properties as a basis for making rates for light and power. It is not to be the selling value of the property.

If the young men find that the power company is charging rates that are excessive, the commission will direct the company to lower them until they yield only a just and reasonable profit on the investment.

There is only one danger in all this—the rate making value tends to become the market value. If that be the result, no more capital will come to Oregon to invest in public utilities and every community will be forced to public ownership.

We stand corrected. There is a mail leaving St. Helens for Portland at about 6 o'clock p. m., but we know of instances where mail leaving here at that time has not reached Portland until the next day. However, the early morning train carries no mail from St. Helens; the mail from Portland continues to arrive here shortly before noon and the people of St. Helens are justly kicking at the service.

Our foodstuffs are accumulating, bumper crops are reported from every direction, we can't ship it to Europe, we have no ships in which to ship to South America, and yet we are forced to pay higher prices—war prices—for what we eat. Let the government ask why—and compel the answer. It is not the fault of the small local retailer nor is it the producer. It is the man between who should be in jail.

In setting the stage for the transferring of the Mexican government to the constitutionalists the back door was left conveniently open for a counter revolution. Nobody expects lasting peace. It is quite impossible for those fellows to exist without a revolution. They were born revolting, have revolved all their lives, will die revolting, and will revolute in the hereafter.

This cruel and bloody and wicked and useless war is coming right home to us. The startling announcement is made that the "makins" are in danger. The cigaret paper supply is about exhausted and no more can be imported from France or Austria. Let's mediate!

And now the price of print paper is floating around in the clouds! We're mad—mad clean through—and we hope the whole European bunch gets soundly thrashed, every one of 'em.

The food question is causing grave concern in Europe. But that will soon adjust itself. At the present rate it is only a matter of a short time when there will be but a few mouths left to feed.

When a woman trips along the street with a poodle dog at the other end of a string the dog commands most attention.

We are more than satisfied to continue in the peaceful—if less spectacular—occupation of gathering in the crops.

The only thing that prevents its being a battle royal is the fact that royalties are not doing the battling.

The business of the merchant who never advertises is like a hailstone in a puddle of water. It soon shrinks.

A well written advertisement is like a hungry mosquito. It commands instant attention.

If foodstuffs go much higher we will have to imitate the bear and subsist on our own fat.

"Dress goods going up," says a Portland dispatch. Shocking!

NOTICE.

In the matter of the application of W. Ryan and C. S. Putnam for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors.

To Whom It May Concern:—

Take notice, that we the undersigned have filed our application with the City Council of the City of St. Helens, Oregon on August 19, 1914, for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in the so-called Geo. A. Briann building, situated in Section 4 of Township 4 N. Range 1 W. in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, formerly town of Houlton, Oregon. Said license to be for a term of six (6) months from the 4th day of Sept., 1914; and said application will be heard, granted or refused, by the City Council, on Monday, August 24, 1914, at 7:30 o'clock in the evening of said day, and to which application, remonstrances may be filed with the Recorder of said City, under and pursuant to Ordinance No. 169 of said City of St. Helens, Oregon, and under which said ordinance this application is made.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 10th day of August, 1914.

RYAN & PUTNAM,
By W. Ryan,
Applicants.

TO THE PUBLIC:

We have purchased the milk business from Mr. Geo. Konopka and are now in position to furnish all of his former customers. We have just completed an up-to-date, sanitary milk house on our Houlton property, and it is our purpose to furnish good, CLEAN milk and cream. You are cordially invited to visit our plant at any time and we feel sure that after you have made an inspection you will feel that we are in a position to serve your wants to your entire satisfaction.

Respectfully,
BENNETT BROS.

Phone 113-5.

FOR SALE—One registered Jersey bull, 15 months old.

E. W. SAXTON,
Warren, Ore.

A Grave Injustice

Do those who advocate the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic liquors realize the seriousness of the social and economic crisis that would be precipitated by such legislation? Are they aware of the fact that the heads of families aggregating probably not less than three million people would suddenly be deprived of their sole means of livelihood, and that properties valued in the aggregate at perhaps two billion dollars would as suddenly become worthless?

It is doubtful if they do fully realize this, yet these are figures given by no less a writer than Dr. Henry Smith Williams in an article in the "Ladies Home Journal," reviewing the prohibition movement. And he adds: "Personally I am at a loss to understand how anyone who has the slightest grasp of economic questions can contemplate with equanimity the anarchistic possibilities—nay, certainties—which reveal themselves through the slightest use of the imagination in connection with these figures. To me, at least, it seems obvious that the only thing which has kept the prohibition movement before the people of the United States is the simple fact that prohibition does not prohibit."

Thinking men and women who seek the truth and are unswayed by prejudice, and who give the foregoing facts the consideration they deserve cannot escape a like conclusion. —Paid Advertisement.

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